



October 30th, 2015

This Week In The Legislature

Greetings!

It was a busy week in the Assembly. We continue to work to make Wisconsin a better place for everyone to work, live, and learn. I thought I'd take a minute to highlight some of the bills we passed this week:

AB 239 increases parents' rights by allowing parents to opt their children out of standardized tests required by state or federal law. In an era of over-testing, it's important that parents have control over their children's education. Importantly, schools will not be punished on their state report cards if parents choose to opt out.

AB 347 makes it a felony to intentionally cause or threaten bodily harm to our public safety officials (judges, prosecutors, public defenders, police, etc.) or their family members. Unfortunately, threats against the people who protect and serve us are not uncommon. We need to do everything we can to ensure their safety.

AB 373 updates Wisconsin's archaic civil service hiring system. The current system was designed in 1905. It makes hiring the most qualified individuals difficult and is time-consuming and costly to taxpayers. In addition to streamlining the hiring process, the bill institutes annual performance reviews for state employees. It's to bring the state of Wisconsin's hiring system into the 21st century, and this bill does just that.

As your representative in Madison, I will fight for your interests and



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continue to advocate for policies that protect taxpayers, create jobs, and ensure a strong education system in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Dean

Governor Visits Turningpoint Shelter in River Falls



This week Governor Walker visited Turningpoint for Victims of Domestic Abuse in River Falls. The services that Turningpoint provides our community are critical. When facilities like Turningpoint faced financial troubles, the Legislature decided to act. The budget we passed this summer included **\$5 million in grants for domestic abuse shelters**. Thanks to the additional funding, Turningpoint is looking to open an outreach office in Baldwin or New Richmond to reach more victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

To read more about the Governor's visit, [click here](#).

Wisconsin Ranks 3rd in Graduation Rates

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction announced this week that preliminary data from the U.S. Department of Education shows Wisconsin ranks 3rd in the U.S. in terms of high school graduation rates. Wisconsin's 2014 graduation rate was over 88 percent.

We recognize that keeping our education system strong is important to all Wisconsinites. That's why this past spring, in addition to

completely eliminating a proposed cut to K-12 education, we added an additional \$100 per pupil to the budget. **That's a total investment of almost \$200 million**

above the proposed budget. We're keeping our education strong for future generations and the results continue to show that Wisconsin is headed in the right direction.

Nominate an Outstanding UWRF Alumni



The University of River Falls External Relations and Alumni Advisory Board needs your help. They are currently seeking nominations for alumni awards to be awarded this spring. If you know an outstanding UWRF Alumni who deserves special recognition for their service to the community or has excelled in their profession contact the Board by Friday, November 20th at daniel.e.mcginity@uwrf.edu or 715-452-3505

New Blue Books Available

We still have plenty of 2015-16 Blue Books available and we're happy to provide them to you, free of charge. To have one mailed to you, contact my office with your name, address, and the number of Blue Books you would like. We look forward to hearing from you!

Capitol Office: Post Office Box 8952 ~ Madison, WI 53708-8952
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